

item 3



South Tyneside Council

Jarrow Forward

Update for Place Scrutiny Committee

25th September 2025

Rory Sherwood-Parkin, Corporate Lead for Policy & Insight



Background



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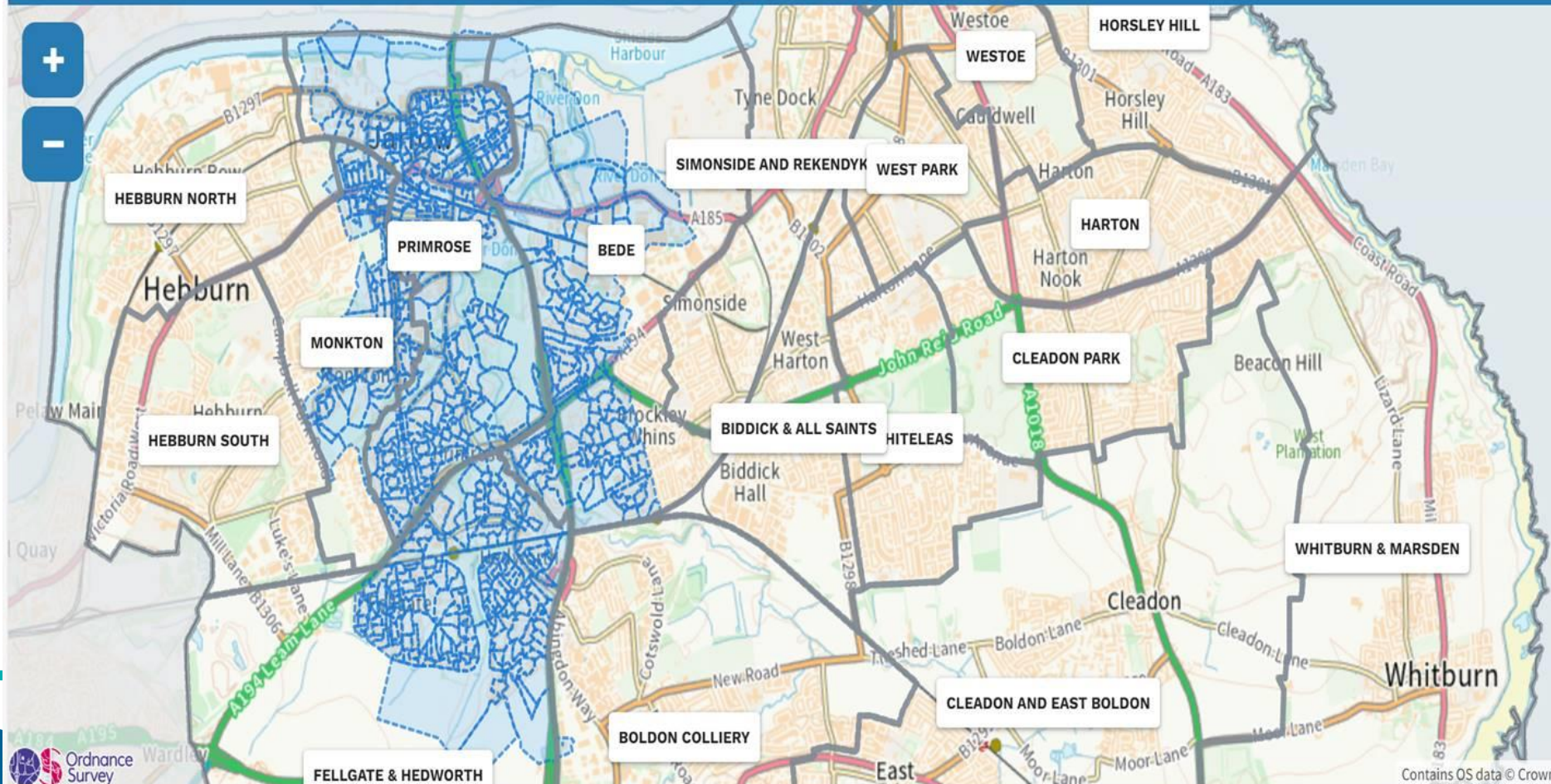
- Previous Government said in Autumn 2023 that 75 towns (5 in NE) would receive £20m (75% capital, 25% revenue) over 10 years (Long Term Plan for Towns).
- To boost pride in place the funding should focus on three themes; Safety & Security; High Streets, Culture and Heritage; and Connectivity.
- To access funds, an independent board should be created and a 10 year plan produced (the Council would be the accountable body).
- Jarrow Forward was subsequently developed with a mix of key partners across the public, private and voluntary sectors (and across themes) in early 2024. Guidance issued in March 2024, first meeting of the Board in May 2024.

Geography



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NE32 Postcodes Areas



Jarrow Forward membership



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- Government guidance said that boards should include the local community, employers, Council and MP and not be chaired by a politician.
- Chair is Susan Wear Brown (formerly NGI and Port of Tyne), Vice Chair is Geoff Thompson (South Shields FC) and members include Barbour, Bede's Helping Hands, ICB, Kate Osborne MP, Tyne Coast College and Big Local Jarrow.
- Board has met seven times; agreed Terms of Reference, created an Executive Group; conducted research into existing projects and national data; produced an outline plan; liaised and lobbied Government; held three workshops and undertaken community engagement.

Previous programme



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- For the previous Government's 1st July 2024 deadline for a 10 year plan, Jarrow Forward worked with key partners to produce a high level vision for the town focused on Jarrow as; *“an inspiring, life-enhancing place to live, visit, work or learn, leading the way in green innovation, ideas and creativity alongside sport and cultural excellence.”*
- 10 priorities including; revitalising the town centre; providing more opportunities for young people; improving gateways into the town; developing partnerships to increase the skills for future industries; promoting green initiatives; and maximising the opportunities from Jarrow's historic, cultural and sporting assets.

New Government changes



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- The previous plan was submitted to Government by 1st July 2024, but the fund was put on hold by the General Election.
- Following lobbying, new Government confirmed in Nov 2024 Budget that the fund would continue. March 2025 Budget confirmed this, but changed the name to Plan for Neighbourhoods, pushed start date of funding to April 2026, provided capacity funds and widened focus to three priorities;
 - Thriving places;
 - Stronger communities;
 - Taking back control.

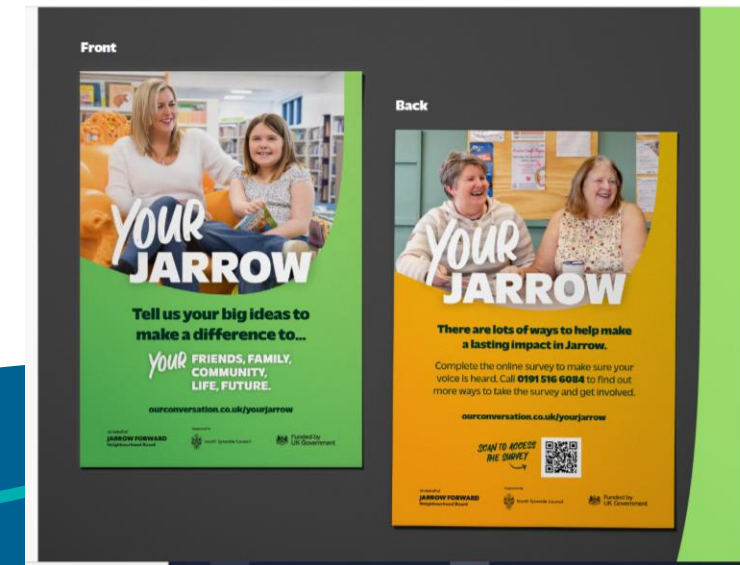
Community engagement



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To further develop our original plan, Board agreed to the Your Jarrow community consultation which took place between March and June 2025.

- Every house received Jarrow Festival brochure with advert;
- 1,500 residents responded to survey, including 500 young people;
- 100 groups and stakeholders engaged, including 7 focus groups;
- Bespoke community engagement to specific groups (via Cultural Spring and Groundworks);
- Spreading the word through comms, posters, social media, transport hubs and screens;
- Two workshops of key local and regional partners;
- Currently analysing the results and key themes to form our plan to Government.



Current position & Next Steps



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- Government guidance issued in the Summer requiring each town to create a 10 year Regeneration Plan to submit by end of Nov 2025 (Jarrow Forward aiming for Oct).
- We are working up a plan to take to Jarrow Forward board meeting based on emerging themes from data, community engagement and workshops.
- Plan will be high level (challenges, assets, priorities) to give Government surety and allow funding to flow (circa £2m a year) from April 2026.
- To help our plans, we've hosted a tour of Jarrow by MHCLG officials, are liaising with other towns and met with Local Government Minister. Also appointed a Partnership Manager to manage the programme and Board are discussing plans around communicating the results of the engagement and the plan being submitted.



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Thank you, Any Questions?

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